

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Karina Eide Memorial Scholars 2018



*Karina Eide Memorial  
College Scholarship*



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to the remarkable Karina Eide Memorial Scholarship winners of 2018! These eighteen young people are the best and the brightest who are already making their positive mark in the world.

Thanks to our donors and supporters who make these awards possible. We all know these are some of the most inspiring and hard-working individuals in the world and they have great dreams for the future.

The Eide family thanks the Scholarship program for allowing them to honor the memory of their brave and compassionate daughter Karina in this way.





## Major: Visual Arts & Psychology

Student Ministry, Missions  
National Christian Forensics and Communications  
Camp Counselor and Mentor

## CAROLINE Covenant College

While compensating for dyslexia may seem like a challenge, the strengths outweigh my deficiency. Being dyslexia I have to listen attentively in classes and conversations to be able to comprehend and participate. In relationships, this has been a strength. In conversations, lectures or discussions, I give the speaker, friend, or family member my full attention. As a Resident Assistant in college, this strength has been essential. I have had conversations where I have listened more than I spoke. While this may seem like a weakness, I see it as a God-given strength. Listening intentionally gives me time to soak in what the other party is saying, think about it and respond with gracious, well-thought-out words. I may not be able to think on my feet efficiently or be quick witted, but I know that I have wholesome contributions, it just takes me longer to express them coherently.

In the future, I hope to teach art in a classroom setting. I enjoy people and delight in artwork. I hope to be able to reclaim the name of art for Christ and His kingdom. I may not be gifted in communicating through words, but I can teach others who might struggle similarly and help them express and share through artwork. Similarly, I hope to be a missionary and lend a listening ear, but to also speak to the saving work of Christ's love. Art can bring people together, people talk about art together. I hope to build community and have intentional conversations wherever I go after college.

For the younger generations with dyslexia, take heart. It is not going to be easy, but it is going to be worth it. I am thankful that once I realized how I am deficient I was able to see how I was designed. To those who only see their shortcomings or struggles with school or communication, look at your strengths. Can you express a human emotion through artwork that is not tangible in words? Do you always have intentional, thought-through questions to ask others? Ask yourself, "what can I do well?" not "what am I failing at?" I make passing grades, I am not the best in school, but I work hard and find other areas to delight in. Take dyslexia by the horns. Accept the challenge. Revel in your strengths, do not dwell in your weaknesses.



## **Major: Sports Management / Business**

Athletic Director Assistant  
Youth Leadership positions  
VA Department of Education Speaker  
Decoding Dyslexia Advocate  
Founder, Learning Differences Club The Talons

## **CAYDEN**

**Blue Ridge Community  
College**

I also volunteer with Decoding Dyslexia Virginia and testified before a Virginia General Assembly subcommittee sharing my story of dyslexia to help get Virginia's first dyslexia law passed. We went on to pass a second law the following year. I share my story with my representatives, school and community to spread dyslexia awareness. In addition, I spoke at the 2017 Virginia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association's spring conference held at James Madison University sharing my story of dyslexia.

I am currently in training to become a Young Life Leader as I enjoy working with youth. I have a passion to find students who struggle not only academically, but also socially like I did. I want them to know they are not alone and that they can be very successful. I struggled to make friends and want to be a friend to students like me.

My goal is to get my degree in Sports Management/Business and work at a school or college. My ultimate goal is to work for a NFL football team. I am currently enrolled in a photography class and am enjoying taking pictures at local sporting events.

My advice for younger students with dyslexia is to never give up. Things may take you longer and you may have to work harder, but you can be successful. Learn about dyslexia, why things are hard or easy for you, and spread dyslexia awareness. Don't be ashamed, but embrace your dyslexia.



## **Major: Social Work**

Inner city tutor and mentor  
Small group church leader for 5th graders

## **Christine** University of St. Francis

My leadership skill is now influencing my future because I am now trying to see how to better change my city. I went into social work because I believe in advocating for social change. One thing that I want to do in the near future is to get a proposal of mine in action. Right now I am in the process of trying to figure out how to change the segregation of my city. The north side of the city is where I grew up, however, this is where all the privilege lies. On the south side of town is where there is extreme poverty. I am trying to see how we as a city can bridge these gaps. I am working on a proposal to present to some city pastors to address this issue of a divided city. These pastors have many powerful people who attend their church, and if their hearts could be moved, hopefully they can help change the city....

Some advice I would give to dyslexic kids is that, dyslexia is not a curse but a blessing. I am able to process the world in a different way than most people, because of being dyslexic. Another word of advice is learn to advocate for yourself. I did not find out that I was dyslexic until my junior year. I knew there was something wrong my whole life, I just never pushed for change. I struggled in spelling, in reading, and having enough time to finish my tests . I just believed what everyone told me, that I was just a slow processor. They were not wrong but there was a reason for that. Finally, I would just like to say use all the resources you can. Quizlet has been the best study tool for me because it quizzes you, and you can have the question read to you by adjusting the setting on the website. Also when entering college, make an appointment to talk to a disabilities counselor to get all the resources that you need.



## **Major: Liberal Studies**

Teacher's Aide  
Camp Counselor  
Team Captain

# **GABRIELLE**

**Notre Dame de  
Namur University**

For a long time, I didn't believe that I had any strengths in school...That was until I was diagnosed with dyslexia. After I was diagnosed I was able to get accommodations to help me find my strengths in school. I found that I was very good at reading, I just needed more time to comprehend the readings.

An example of how I use strengths, is in my work. I work as a teacher aid and an aftercare teacher at a grade school and I love it. I think kids are absolutely amazing and spending time with them makes my days so much better. I use my strengths every day, some days more than others. When a student comes to me with a problem, I use my patience and leadership to show the student how they can solve the problem...

I believe that education is the most important thing anyone can have, and I want to be able to give kids the education they deserve. Because of my love for kids and education, I want to become a teacher in the future. I've been around kids my whole life and I never want to stop that. I've had so many teachers that have had such a positive impact on my life and I want to be able to positively impact a student's life in the future. I want to make school and education enjoyable for the generations to come.

My advice to younger people with dyslexia has three parts. Part one, don't use dyslexia as an excuse to not work hard. Dyslexia is an amazing thing, at first it can seem hard but once you discover how to use your strengths to overcome challenges, you can really enjoy school and life more, it even becomes fun! Part two, never give up! Use dyslexia as motivation, accomplish anything you put your mind to. Part three, I work at a summer camp for dyslexic kids and I always remind them to never let someone make them feel less just because they're dyslexic, being dyslexic makes you more, it makes you unique, amazing and strong.



## Major: Interior Design

Design Showcase

Bible Study

4H Leader

Community Volunteer

## HAILEY Oregon State University

Some of the personal strengths that I believe I possess are interpersonal communication skills, leadership qualities, critical thinking abilities, and a love for history. Throughout my life I have always seen myself as a leader inside and outside of school. I love to work in groups and make friends and new relationships with other people. Many people say I am very outgoing, and that is a good thing to possess. I gained many of my leadership skills when I joined 4-H at 10 years old, and I have been involved ever since. I have done many 4-H projects such as: rabbits, meat goats, beef steers, and public speaking. I also was awarded the highest leadership position in 4-H as a Madera County All Star...

I am studying Interior Design with a minor in Business. I really love interior design and have always known that I wanted to study it and to make it my future career. I want to design homes, offices, commercial spaces, and everything in between. With a minor in business, I will have a background to be able to run a business or even just have the knowledge set that will separate me from the rest.

My advice for younger people suffering from dyslexia is that they aren't the only ones going through this challenge. I want them to find in themselves courage and strength to push through the challenge that dyslexia brings. They can learn from it and overall become stronger than they ever thought possible. Dyslexia is only as debilitating as you make it out to be, and you honestly have to show it who's boss and believe in yourself. You are your own strongest critic, and you must make sure to let yourself mess up and learn from it. That is my advice for younger students and children that have dyslexia.



## Major: Public Health

Catholic Worker Free Clinic  
Volunteer in Kenya - AIDS & All-Girls  
Orphanage  
Salvation Army Volunteer and tutor  
Student Athlete Scholar Award  
Division I Drexel University Rowing Team  
Epidemiology / Biology Club  
American Medical WOMen's Association at  
Drexel

## JEAN Drexel University

Growing up I always thought I was less intelligent than my peers because it would take me twice as long to read and do assignments. This affected me greatly mentally and I constantly doubted myself. However, I found my personal strength in Public Health that gave me the confidence to keep going with my academics even if it was harder for me compared to some of my peers. Public Health is my life and also my major which makes me incredibly excited for my future...

What I am going to do in the future is be a Public Health specialist and focus on the importance of breaking stereotypes with learning disabilities and show how it correlates with Public Health. I am also focusing on HIV/AIDS and will be working both nationally and internationally on the matter. Learning disabilities are not looked at the same way in most international countries like the United States. We have doctors and medicine for helping people manage their dyslexia and other learning disabilities, but other countries such as Kenya, that I saw, just brushed it under the rug and did not want to talk about it.

The advice I would give and that I gave to some of the girls in the orphanage, was to never let it get them down like I did. I would feel sorry for myself for having dyslexia and also be mad at myself for having it even though I didn't give it to myself. I would also tell the younger people with dyslexia to not see it as a negative part of them, but as a positive part of them. Accepting my dyslexia took a couple years, but now I see it as a positive part of me because I can speak up to break those stereotypes of having a learning disability and how anyone with dyslexia is just like anyone else and can do anything anyone can.





## Major: Kinesiology

Valedictorian, Achieve Early  
President, Community Relations Club  
Student Center Mentor  
Corps of Cadets  
Dance Instructor

## Jonathan

### Texas A & M University

Helping others is a passion of mine, therefore, my future career choice is to be a physician. I attend Texas A&M University at College Station and am pursuing a degree in Kinesiology - Basic Exercise Physiology. I am pursuing this degree because it provides me with a wide variety of science courses ranging from biology and chemistry to anatomy and physiology. Simultaneously, I learn vital issues on medical ethics, fundamental nutrition, and have hands-on exposure to body strength training. I want to attend medical school and become a sports medicine physician. My degree plan will assist me in preparation for the MCAT exam.

This scholarship will allow me to focus on my studies and volunteer opportunities. I volunteered for two years at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance. I appreciated speaking with and observing the nurses, doctors, and clerks. They shared with me their path, struggles, job experiences and responsibilities. After spending 16 hours each month in a hospital setting, I am even more determined to pursue my career choice. With your financial assistance, I will be able to continue volunteering at a hospital.

My career path ahead will have obstacles, but I will overcome them. I was developmentally behind for my age growing up, but I graduated as the valedictorian of my Early College high school and earned an associate degree while there. My advice to younger people with dyslexia is that a label is just a label, and it doesn't define who you are or your academic abilities. My label was special education with speech impairment in elementary, and in secondary school, my label was 504 under dyslexia. My speech impairment was diagnosed at two, but my dyslexia was not diagnosed until my senior year. I have struggled with reading since the elementary years. Although I have obstacles and struggles to overcome, one day I will become a physician. I strongly believe people with a disability need to advocate for themselves in order to get the assistance needed to be successful. My university provides me services such as extended time for quizzes/exams and copies of power point presentations.



## Major: Music Education

Music Teacher  
Chemistry Scholar  
Drum Major  
Orchestra, Wind Ensemble  
Departmental Scholar for Instrumental Music  
Cross Country Ski Racing Team  
Youth Group Leader and Counselor

## JUSTIN

Gustavus Adolphus  
College

I learned to persevere through the frustrations, challenges, and obstacles that came with being a dyslexic student in a system often ill-equipped for students with varying learning styles. As I gained confidence and understanding of how I learned, I started to love school and the joy of learning. In high school I let my passion for music guide me as I discovered my strengths in leadership. I became a Drum Major of my high school's marching band and strived to be a respectful and caring peer leader. When new students faced the exhaustion and difficulty of marching band, I made it my mission to encourage them to find the joy and beauty of the teamwork and music....

My goals for the future are to never stop learning and challenging myself. My career hopes are go into teaching or coaching. Specifically I would love to become a high school band director. The dream is to be able to give students something they love and are passionate about, so they can look forward to making beautiful music at school every day. The teachers, coaches, and choir and band directors I have had in my life have been such a blessing for me, and I would love to be able to support student musicians as they did for me.

My advice to younger people with Dyslexia is to appreciate and love your own mind, strengths and gifts. And as you go through school and life don't let yourself caught in up in the small challenges and obstacles, but instead see the big picture, and pursue your goals and dreams with passion, patience, kindness, and perseverance!



## **Major: Veterinary Technician**

Veterinary Assistant  
Computer Tech Support Desk  
Nationally-Ranked Dancer  
Choir and Theatre Productions

## **KATIE**

### **Tarleton State University**

I was diagnosed with dyslexia when I was six years old. It was right about then that I was selected to be the youngest member of a competitive studio dance team. That opened a whole new world for me. I used my artistic performance ability to dance all over the country for sixteen years...

It was on the stage where I found my passion. Dancing taught me to be flexible, focused, disciplined, and self confident. I've used those traits I learned to get my Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology. I also learned to live on my own and really take care of myself away from my family. Today, I am using my degree already by working part time as a Veterinary Technician at an animal clinic while attending Tarleton State University working toward my Bachelors Degree . My future goals are to continue as a Vet Tech to gain experiencing working with animals and perhaps later working at a zoo. My dream job would be working at Disney in their Animal Kingdom Park and then dancing in their Disney parades.

If I could advise young people on the journey they will face with their learning and medical issues, I would tell them to take one day at a time and just keep going. If there are people around you that make you feel less than you are, just remember they are wrong. Negative influences are everywhere and you are better off to just walk away from them. Try always be to be positive and remember that you can do anything you set your mind to doing. Things get easier over time. After you have one small success, the next success is easier to come by. And it's okay to get more time or extra help for schoolwork. Just remember that your brain is wired differently than others and you just process information differently. Every person is different and unique and you are no different. Eventually you will find those differences can make you more interesting, more compassionate, and more learned. Just be patient and try to remember that every day is a gift.



## **Major: Automotive Technology**

Skills USA Top Ten  
School Record Holder in Art  
Eagle Scout  
Lifeguard  
Welder

## **Kyson** **Utah State University** **Eastern**

For most of my school career I struggled and felt like an animal stuck in a live trap. To me school was hard. I felt stupid. I experienced anxiety and depression from the pressures placed on me, and many times I wanted to quit. I took a class in Automotive as a concurrent enrollment student in high school. Finally, my eyes were open to what life could be like. I discovered something that changed my thinking, passion...

I am able to create because of hands-on learning. I learned to work independently and pay attention to detail. I am able to see solutions as I work, in my mind's eye. I love a good challenge. I have been able to learn new skills including diagnostics, replacement parts, repair, and hands on experience with vehicles and tools. I am learning about transmissions, engines and other parts of vehicles making it possible for me to give and share these skills and services with the community.

I am pursuing my major in Automotive Technology, but would also like the opportunity to advance into Diesel Heavy Equipment Mechanics. I am thankful for opportunities to make a difference in society, and to share my knowledge, talents and skills for the benefit of others. My advice for young students would be to find your passion. Recognize and value your strengths. Do not base your self worth on a "letter" grade. Understand that you have a different way of learning. Most importantly, always believe in yourself, and when you are having a bad day serve someone else. This Scholarship award would be a blessing and provide a way for me to continue my education and career goals, and the opportunity to benefit others.



### **Major: Modern Dance**

University of Utah and Hartford Dance  
Companies, Contemporary Dance Ensemble  
Teacher Assistant and Mentor  
Dyslexia Advocacy - CT  
Building Bridges Community Service

## **LEXI**

### **University of Utah**

I am Lexi, a big-hearted, hardworking, artist, athlete and leader who is profoundly dyslexic. Having dyslexia - without knowing until I was 17 years old, made learning very difficult. I was always behind and constantly tried to catch up, a battle I never won though I achieved honors....

Because of the struggles I encountered, I was determined to be successful, I developed a very strong worth ethic which has supported me in everything I do. I turned to after school activities to relieve the stress of academic learning and fell in love with dance. Being in a dance class also brought it's difficulties, but I worked extra hard to memorize combinations, and over time my determination paid off. Dance gave me a voice and allowed me to discover my artistry which continues to fulfill me every day. In the dance studio I was given many leadership opportunities. I have taken part and organized mentorship programs connecting younger dancers with supportive role models. At the age of fourteen, I began assisting my dance teachers in classes for younger students and since, have begun teaching my own criteria....

My advice to a younger person with dyslexia is to believe in yourself, that you are beautifully made and to never, ever give up. Even though I always struggled in school, never knowing I was dyslexic, I figured out ways to compensate. My struggles defined my character and because of that I am a hard worker. I am a creative right brained learner and through much hard work and perseverance, I found my love for dance, have a passion to teach and I am proud of who I am today.



## **Major: Psychology**

UAB Disability Support Services  
Philanthropy Events Director  
Autism Volunteer  
Community Services

## **MOLLY** University of Alabama at Birmingham

In all the years of my education, I realized that words were not always my friends, they moved, flipped ran around and just overall did not want to make life easy for me. However, even though those letters and words didn't want to make life easy on me, they made me realize that I am stronger and smarter than I had ever dreamed. Having Dyslexia made me find new ways to cope, new ways to understand what I was reading, and tricks to remember spelling. Having this disability has not disabled me, it has allowed me to reach higher and try harder to realize my potential.

I have used my skills in psychology to help students understand and find better ways to study for tests and comprehend the material. My position at disability support services has taught me so much, but the most important thing it taught me is that I can do anything I put my mind to. In the future I plan on continuing my degree in psychology to master in educational counseling.

I want to become a middle school guidance counselor, because that is the age most students are diagnosed with learning disabilities. I want to help those students understand that their disability does not mean they are restricted in their future. Their disability makes school a little harder sometimes, but it also makes life a little more fun. It makes your brain think in different ways to solve problems. It helps to keep your brain active. I want to help children like me realize that their disability does not define them, it does not make things impossible, but makes anything achievable with a little hard work and dedication.



## **Major: Product Design**

Women In Design

Black Student Union

Playground Design Team

Youth Representative Sacred Heart Church

Teacher's Assistant - Detroit Neighborhood Arts Workshop

Summer Camp Volunteer

# **OLIVIA**

## **College for Creative Studies**

I was diagnosed with dyslexia in fifth grade and because of my learning ability I had a challenging time with reading, grammar, and writing. At first it was hard to come to terms with my disability and not feel self-conscious about the way my brain works. Over time I was able to stop ignoring my disability but work on my challenges and also be able to hone in on some of my personal strengths.

For younger people with dyslexia I would advise them to do the same as I did and to not let your learning disability hold you back. Just because you learn differently doesn't make you less than others. At a young age I developed a huge interest in art and design which I used as an outlet to express myself. In high school I gained skills in ceramic sculpture, drawing, oil, and acrylic painting. As well as graphic art design abilities in Adobe Photo Shop and Adobe Illustrator.

I currently volunteer as a teacher assistant with College for Creative Studies Community Arts Partnerships at their Detroit Neighborhood Arts Workshops for middle schoolers. Within this program I get to combine all of my strengths and provide the students assistance with their projects, inspire them to follow their dreams and ideas, and most importantly be a role model for them to look up to.... I am not exactly sure where I see myself in the future but I hope that I am able to use my degree and personal skill set to create things and concepts that will help the community and bring happiness to people around the world.



## **Major: Communications**

Louisville Ballet School  
University of Louisville Dance Theatre  
Film and Commercial Experience  
Golden Key Service  
Hospital Community Service  
Outstanding Volunteer Louisville Zoo

# **SAVANNAH**

University of  
Louisville

If someone had to describe me and my strengths I hope that they would say that I am driven, creative and compassionate. I use my strengths in many ways in my life and in my community. For me dyslexia means being a more creative thinker. Dyslexia is not a disability but an ability to see the world in a little different way...

If I could give any advice to dyslexics it would be as a dyslexic you see the world differently than other people. That doesn't mean that you are not smart because you struggle doing some things that most people can. That doesn't mean that you are limited on your goals or that you even have a disability. It means that you see the world in a whole new way. That you solve problems and create solutions like very few people can. You are special because you have an ability to create, explore and change the world like most people cannot. The road will not be easy, and people will not always be kind to you. But you know on the inside that they are not able to see what you will do in the future or how you will change the world. When you are having a bad day and when they tell you otherwise you tell yourself this.... Another fellow dyslexic, Steven Spielberg said, "You have many years ahead of you to create the dreams that we can't even imagine dreaming. You have done more for the collective unconscious of this planet than you will ever know. (Cyrus, 2016)

You might not know it know but you are an extraordinary treasure, you are amazing. You may not have chosen this path but what you can do with it is extraordinary. It is all up to you and how much you are determined to succeed. For me, of course my dreams are big, because otherwise all that I have been through and all that I have propelled myself up to has to have somewhere to go. I know with that same determination that has got me this far I will eventually achieve my dreams and then dare to dream even bigger.





## Major: Musical Theatre

Children's Educational Theater Assistant  
LIU Theater, Kesizer Homegrown Theatre  
WSHS Choir  
American Sign Language

## SPENCE

Long Island  
University

Adults have always told me that I was bright. However, I never tested well. This confused my teachers, because I generally did well in class. Then, my 2nd Grade teacher suggested to my parents that something was wrong. We started with glasses. When glasses didn't work, I was tested and diagnosed with both Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. Over the next several years, I was on an individualized education plan and learned the importance of hard work. I learned skills to overcome my conditions. Using a keyboard was easier for me than writing by hand. I discovered that I can easily memorize things.

And my parents' belief in me taught me to believe in myself. But despite the support of family, and even though my grades improved, I continued to struggle academically. Busy teachers and administrators sometimes ignored or lost track of my needs. I have distinct memories of going to parent-teacher conferences with my mother, and the teacher wouldn't know my name or that I was on an IEP. While I was sitting at the table, my 7th Grade math teacher asked my mother, "You don't think he's actually going to college, do you?" The moment was surreal. I've always expected to go to college. My mother told him, "If he wants to go to college, of course he will go."

Even when I struggled at school, I always found release in other activities – particularly theater. Theater became a place that I excelled, and where I could always go and feel comfortable and accepted. My performance skills have been honed over the years by many wonderful teachers and directors....

If I could tell younger people with dyslexia one thing, I would tell them to never stop working. This thing that you have, is nothing to be scared of. Embrace it. It is only a learning disability if you allow it to be. I am excited for my future.



## Major: Theatre Studies

Costume Stitcher, Actor  
Construction Laborer / Carpenter  
Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader

**Susan**

University of Maryland

When I was a child, I couldn't keep any of my school papers and supplies organized. I thought that folders were desk decorations and page numbers were a suggestion. One could rifle through any pouch of my backpack and find pieces of crafts, worn down pencils, and scraps of overdue homework. I was homeschooled for several years, so this disorganization never caused much of a problem during that time. When I started college, I knew I needed to make some changes to be successful and show my commitment to learning. My color-coded binders and electronic schedule are two examples of the adjustments I've made to improve my organizational skills. My schedule tells me how long I need to study for, even if it means forgoing social time, and my color-coded binders categorize papers and when they're due. My ability to organize myself well is the primary factor for my academic success.

Another fundamental strength I have is in my theatre art. One of my greatest joys in life has been seeing some of the spectacular and mind-boggling work that can be done through theatre. Since I was young, I have wanted to be a part of the creation of emotions and ideas expressed through theatre. This is primarily due to the fact that I could always express my feelings and concepts better through things like colors and shapes rather than words. I use this strength chiefly in my work on designs. In a costume rendering, I might use color and shape of the clothes to show what the character is thinking, or what the mood of the scene should be. After graduation, I would like to be predominantly a costume designer, and partly a costume constructor. I would also like to do some acting if given the opportunity....

My advice to those that are younger with dyslexia is simple; Do not be ashamed of doing what works for you. Even if it's taking what peers might call an "unnecessary" amount of notes in class to make sure you're prepared and following the course's content. It's using a certain pen that feels better in your hand if it helps you get your work done. It's asking an instructor to repeat themselves when you couldn't follow what they said during a lecture. Don't be embarrassed or second guess yourself. I speak from personal experience when I say, don't sit in silence when it comes to helping yourself. Say what you need for you. Say it. Just because your view of the world is different, doesn't mean that it's lesser. I would like to say these things to those younger than myself, because I wish that someone would've said them to me.



## **Major: Fisheries, Wildlife, & Conservation Biology**

Research Technician - Endangered Butterfly NC State  
Lead Keeper, Acting Zoo Director, Reptile Zoo  
President, Herpetology Club, Tour Leader - Everglades  
Certified Wildland Fire Fighter  
Writer and Photographer - Wildlife magazine

## **THOMAS**

**North Carolina State  
University**

I utilize my strengths in science, outreach, leadership and animals in my work as a research technician, Park Aide, and doing outreach through the Herpetology Club at NC State. I currently serve as the President of the Herpetology Club. We do outreach with local schools, mentorship programs, and elderly homes to educate the public on the benefits of reptiles and help people overcome their fears while enjoying the learning aspect of the presentations. Last year, I also served as a Mentor for the EcoVillage Living Learning Community. EcoVillage helps prepare students for life-long sustainable living with a focus on education and awareness of environmental issues and service to the community. I planned village programs and chose to also focus on the Long Leaf Pine Sandhills ecosystems and conservations efforts. With this focus, I planned an event for the village to listen to a researcher and collections manager from the NC Museum of Natural History. After the program, I held sign-ups for an event at a local Wake County nature preserve. At the preserve, I led students in the habitat restoration efforts of a stand of young long leaf pine trees to maintain that area's diversity and restoration efforts. I also collaborated with other mentors to plan trips and service opportunities throughout the year for our residents like compost and recycling at football games, and litter pickup on campus. I also worked closely with a group of 17 mentees. I helped the new students become acclimated to college and assisted them with personal problems or questions about college life they encountered. I also planned monthly mentor group activities...

In the future I wish to pursue a master's program working in applied ecology or in herpetology doing research on reptiles in their native habitats. With this advanced research I hope to help develop a better understanding for nature and the effects humans have on rare and endangered ecosystems and animals. One of my favorite quotes is from the late Steve Irwin who once said, "I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message." All my life, I have always enjoyed hands-on learning opportunities. I would advise young people with dyslexia to work hard to find something they are truly passionate about. Finding their passion can help produce a lifetime of excitement and devotion to it while being able to also further their knowledge on the topic and contribute to educating others and fostering that passion with even younger generations. It will also help to make learning more enjoyable because you will find ways to learn outside the traditional classroom.



## **Major: Special Education / Elementary**

Autism Leadership Award  
Health Occupations Students of America  
Dyslexia Advocacy / Public Speaking  
Hospital Volunteer  
Autism Teacher and College Tutor  
Lifeguard  
Varsity Soccer, Weight Lifting

## **TIFFANY**

Western Kentucky  
University

As someone with dyslexia I have academic strengths and then strengths outside of the academic classroom. My main strength that shines throughout my life, is that I am charismatic. I have used this strength along with an act of courage to become an advocate for students with dyslexia. After my diagnosis my senior year I started telling my dyslexia story and advocating on other students behave, who was and still is going through a difficult journey in school. Some of the main things I have advocated on is early identification and teacher training, since there is a lack of that in my state...

After I found out I was dyslexic my senior year I decide to major in special education. Finding out the reason I struggled in school made me want to go and help children who learn differently like me...

In the future I would like to become a special education teacher with a masters in MSD and Autism. After receiving my masters and working in the field for a while I would like to get my Rank 1 to become a Director of Special Education for a school district. I would also like to continue my journey as a Board Member for KYIDA and countine to help advocate for new education laws to help benefit students with dyslexia...

The first advice I have for students with dyslexia is to not let anyone bring them down. I have had several people to question my ability to do things and I had to ignore them and prove them wrong. My next advice is to not to quit no matter how hard it is. Never give up, especially on your dream. Finally do not let your dyslexia stop you from achieving your goals.

THANK YOU



*Karina Eide Memorial  
College Scholarship*

